

WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE STRATEGIC PLAN 2019



**Prepared by:
Auburn City Fire Department**

April, 2019

Auburn City Fire Wildland Urban Interface Strategic Plan

Executive Summary

California experienced the deadliest and most destructive wildfires in its history in 2017 and 2018. The proliferation of new homes in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) magnifies the threat and places substantially more people and property at risk than in preceding decades. The City of Auburn is no exception. The current threat we face is fueled by drought, an unprecedented buildup of dry vegetation and extreme winds. These conditions are exacerbated by the city's proximity to the canyon rim. While fuel treatments such as forest thinning and creation of fire breaks can help reduce fire severity, wind-driven wildfire events that destroy lives and property will likely still occur. The recommendations in this report are only part of the solution. The City of Auburn needs the entire community focused toward protecting lives and property through home hardening, defensible space and other measures.

Planning is essential for the success of any public or private undertaking. Strategic planning is a systematic and continuous process where people make decisions about intended future outcomes, how those outcomes are to be accomplished, and how success is measured and evaluated. The planning process that members and constituents of the Auburn City Fire Department engaged in has served to refresh the organization's commitment to a safe city and safe community. This highly collaborative and participatory work has resulted in the Auburn City Fire Department Wildland Urban Interface - Strategic Plan 2019. The Strategic Plan will now serve as the Auburn City Fire Department decision guide in focusing the organization's material and human resources to the greatest community benefit over the next three to five years.

The members of the Focus Group are to be congratulated for participating and supporting this important effort. It takes organizational and individual leadership to enter into and participate in a strategic planning process. The commitment of Auburn City Fire and the Focus Group members to produce the Plan and drive the work to conclusion is commendable.

As pointed out above, the process does not end with the production of a report or with the simple establishment of goals and objectives. By nature, the Plan must become elemental in the day-to-day operations of the agency. Implementation pulls a plan apart and disseminates it throughout the organization. Each organizational unit and member must function in concert to effectively and efficiently implement the plan. Successful implementation requires constant review and adjustment to assure continued relevance and focus.

The following planning elements were developed based on the input of more than 10 people from inside and outside the agency over a period of five months.

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The City of Auburn

The City of Auburn has been identified as a “Community At Risk” in the National Fire Planⁱⁱ. This document has been established in an effort to reduce damage to the community due to wildfires within the City of Auburn. This plan will focus on specific areas and issues and support other Plans such as the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) that are currently in place. This plan will serve as a guide to aid in the reduction of our wildfire threat and align our efforts with current best practice.

This plan reflects the collaborative effort of the City of Auburn, key community leaders and the leadership of the Greater Auburn Area Fire Safe Council (GAAFSC); a citizen-based organization to address our community fire concerns. Now more than ever, the community needs to come together to address our wildfire issues. Lack of funding, lack of resources and the environment we live in has presented us challenges that only we as a community can address. This plan focuses on a coordinated effort that includes action in a timely and continued manner.

The City of Auburn is a densely populated area with wildfire as its number one fire risk. Consequently, continued residential, commercial and industrial growth presents an ongoing challenge. In the Wildland Urban Interface, efforts to prevent ignitions and limit wildfire losses hinge on hardening structures and creating defensible space through a multi-faceted approach which includes Engineering, Enforcement, Education, Emergency Response and Economic Incentive.



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Mission

Mission

We are dedicated to fostering the development and safety of our community through prevention, public education, and emergency response with pride and honor.

2019 Key Objectives

To evaluate past efforts on the key objectives that were established in 2009, a score of 1-10, with 10 being best, was incorporated for each objective. There has been meaningful progress on the objectives since 2009, but opportunity still exists for continued improvement

PROGRESS REPORT ON KEY OBJECTIVES
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop and sustain a portfolio of high-impact, least-cost, stakeholder-driven solutions for reducing wildfire ignitions, risks and losses by creating and sustaining new solutions, eliminating low-impact solutions, and streamlining high-cost solutions.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 2009-2019 Score: 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Coordinate the City Fire Plan, using the key elements identified by CAL FIRE, and support the county with the development/update of their county wide CWPP.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 2009-2019 Score: 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Continue to engage collaborative partners to lead and drive the effort to protect our community from wildfire. AFD's role needs to transition into a support-oriented role, focusing primarily on active participation, facilitation and evaluation of program results.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 2009-2019 Score: 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure the community understands, accepts responsibility and takes necessary action to mitigate wildfire ignitions and risk, thereby preventing lives and property from being lost or damaged in wildfires.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 2009-2019 Score: 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop regularly publicized motivational performance measurements in order to facilitate change in cultural attitudes, and implement systematic mitigation of risk.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 2009-2019 Score: 7
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Facilitate change in the local "cultural attitude" about wildfire risks from apathy and unawareness, to alertness and empowerment, through mass marketing and outreach.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ 2009-2019 Score: 7

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Ignitions History Auburn, CA

The past 50 years the City of Auburn has experienced minimal wildfire occurrences within or near its boundaries. The most significant fire in the 1960's started in the area today known as the Overlook that burned in an easterly direction along the perimeter of the City of Auburn. No structure damage occurred in this incident. In 2000, the American Fire occurred below the City of Auburn in what is now known as “China Bar” on the American River. The fire consumed approximately 200 acres and posed a threat to development in the southern portion of Auburn.

This fire was a topography and fuel driven event as compared to a “wind driven” event. The burning characteristics of the American Fire were in line with expectations of a fuel and topography driven event. Records indicate that the initial cause of the fire was from a allowed for the fire to come from the bottom of the canyon towards the top. No structures losses or structure damaged was reported in this incident.

Over the past 10 years there have been small vegetation fires within the City of Auburn that were suppressed during one (1) operational period and limited to less than 20 acres in size. Such incidents occurred on open lands; undeveloped lands, open spaces, and public right of ways such as railroad or interstate. The largest of these fires occurred in the western portion of the City known as the Baltimore Ravine area. This area adjoins Interstate 80 and is primarily undeveloped open land with typical fuels for the area. Fire size in this area is directly correlated to limited access, abundance of fuels, and the greatest open land space that exists within the City of Auburn.

The most recent significant wildfire occurred in 2009 named the “49 Fire”.ⁱⁱⁱ This fire occurred in the North Auburn area and did involve lands within the City of Auburn at the airport. This fire occurred on a weekend afternoon when weather conditions were high temperature, low humidity, and prevailing gusty winds from the south/south west. This fire was considered a “wind” driven event; the spread and intensity of the fire were a direct result of the wind. As soon as the wind ceased, the fire was quickly managed by suppression efforts. Although the fire destroyed over 60 homes and commercial structures within a 300+ acre area, the weather conditions were not the worst that could have been experienced. Extreme fire conditions usually involve wind 20+ mph from the north/north east, humidity in the single digits, and temperatures in the 90's to 100's sustained for a period of a day or longer. Had these conditions existed during the 49 Fire there would have been greater devastation to development, a larger fire perimeter, and a longer burning period. The City of Auburn would most likely have sustained severe damage to residential as well as commercial properties.



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Probability of Ignition Auburn, CA

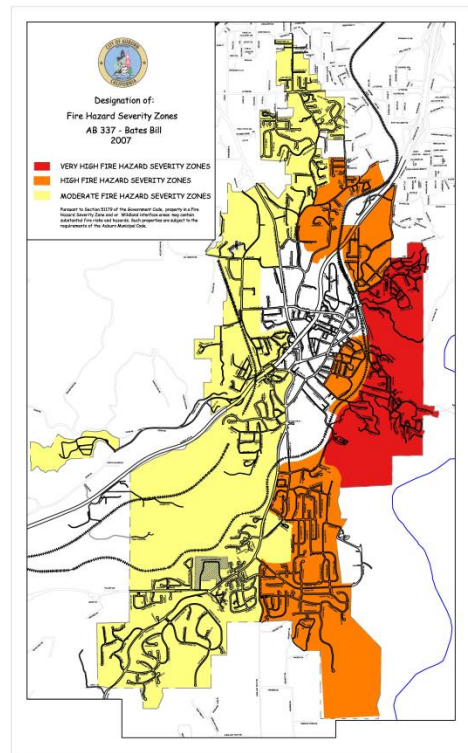
Over the past 10 years, hostile fire ignitions have occurred in the City of Auburn. The fires have been small and handled with little or no impact to the community. With the recent devastating fires, the Community of Auburn has a general sense that we will experience the same catastrophic fire activity seen in our surrounding counties.

To help better understand our risk potential, the existing data with historical information have been combined. To predict the probability and size of a hostile fire, is a complex formulary, which can lead to a false sense of safety or overemphasis of heightened anxiety. The following predictions are the extrapolation of facts and data currently available in a simplistic picture of the data points available.

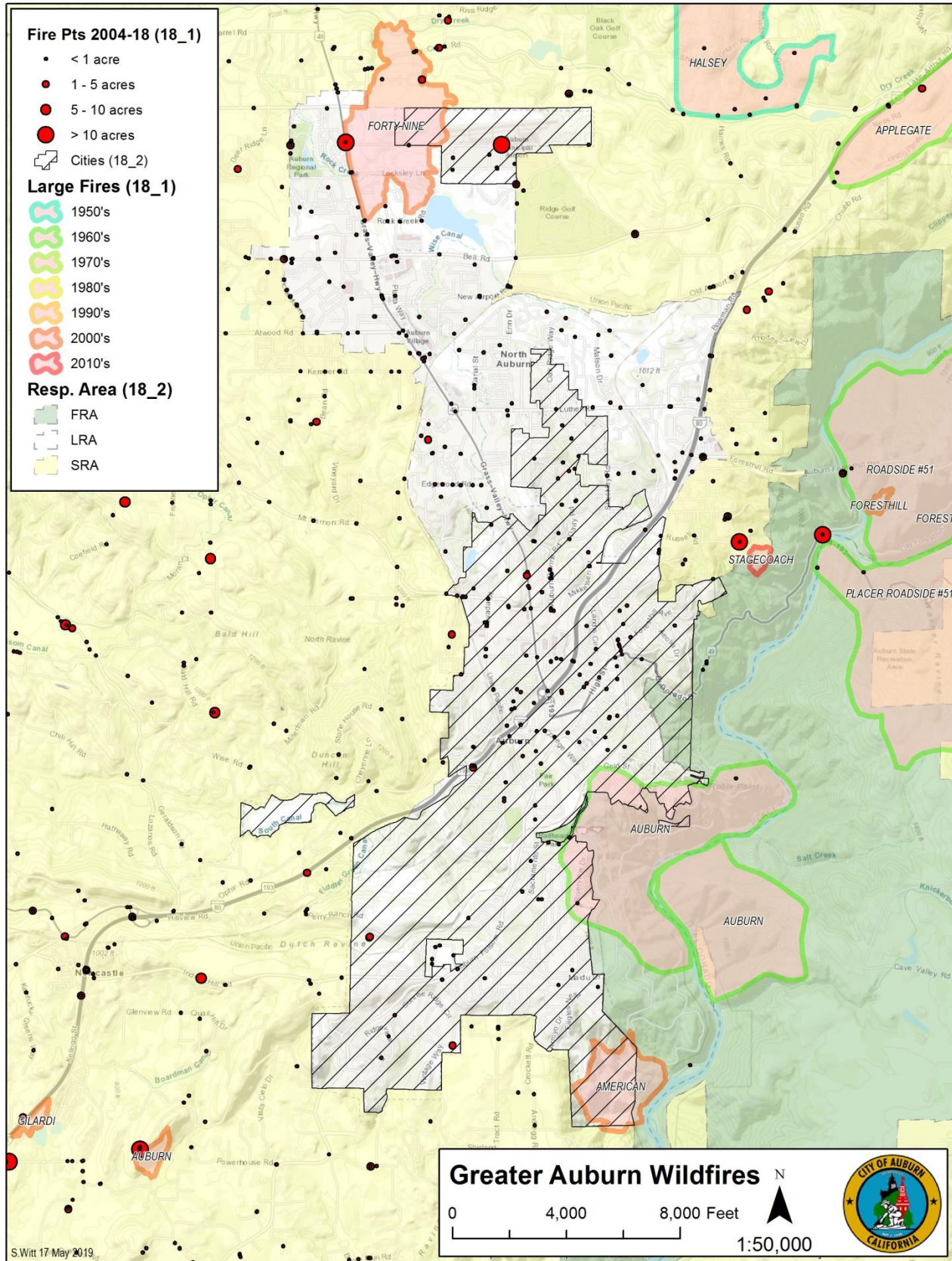
1. The City of Auburn has been identified on the National Fire Plan as a community at risk. We are 1 of 39 communities in the County of Placer with this designation.
2. The majority of Auburn City is in the High Fire Severity Zone or Very High Severity Zone.
3. During the last 10 years, there have been 36,027 total ignitions statewide.
4. During the same reporting period, 22,652 hostile wildfire ignitions were in the High Fire Severity Zone or Very High Severity Zone.

Conclusion

The City of Auburn has a 62% probability of a hostile fire ignition in the High Fire Severity Zone or Very High Severity Zone. In the event the hostile fire occurs during a weather event (Red Flag), the likelihood of devastating effects is likely.



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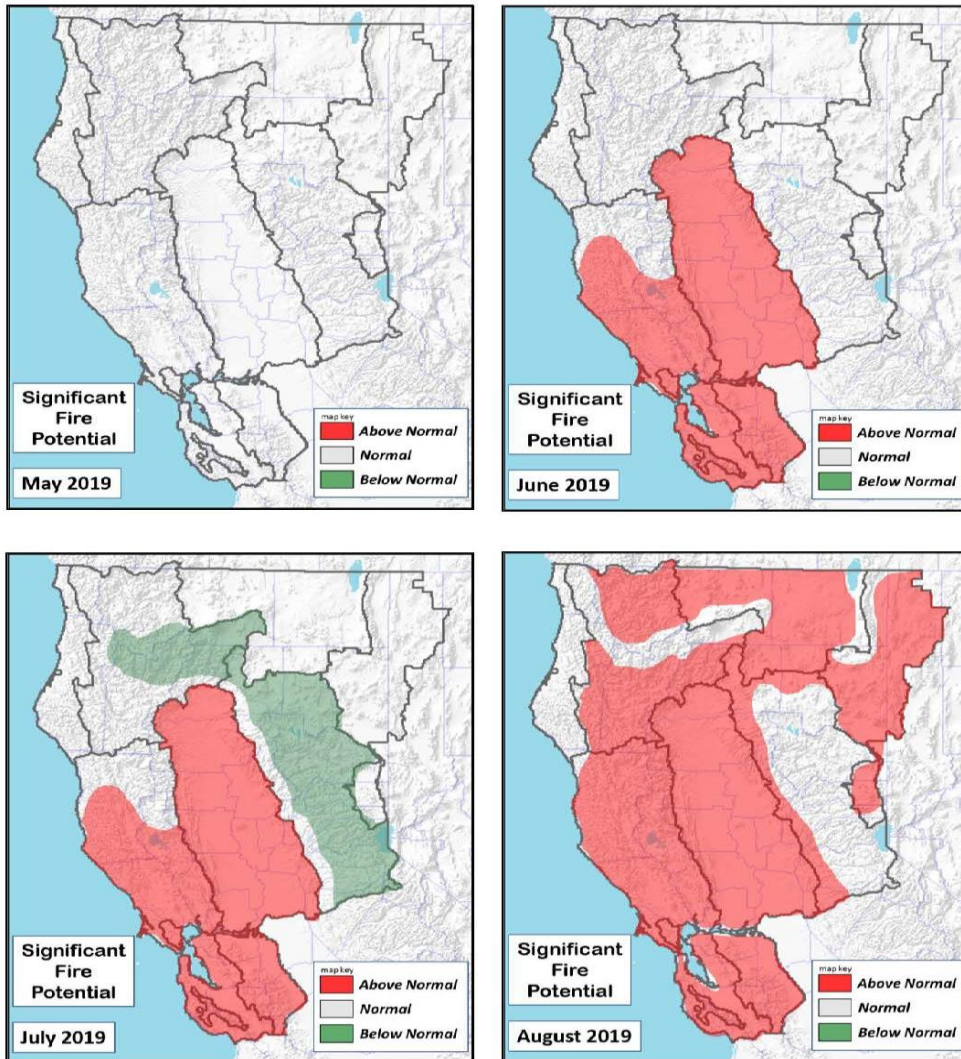
Seasonal Outlook 2019

NORTHERN OPERATIONS
MONTHLY/SEASONAL OUTLOOK
ISSUED MAY 1, 2019 VALID MAY – AUGUST 2019

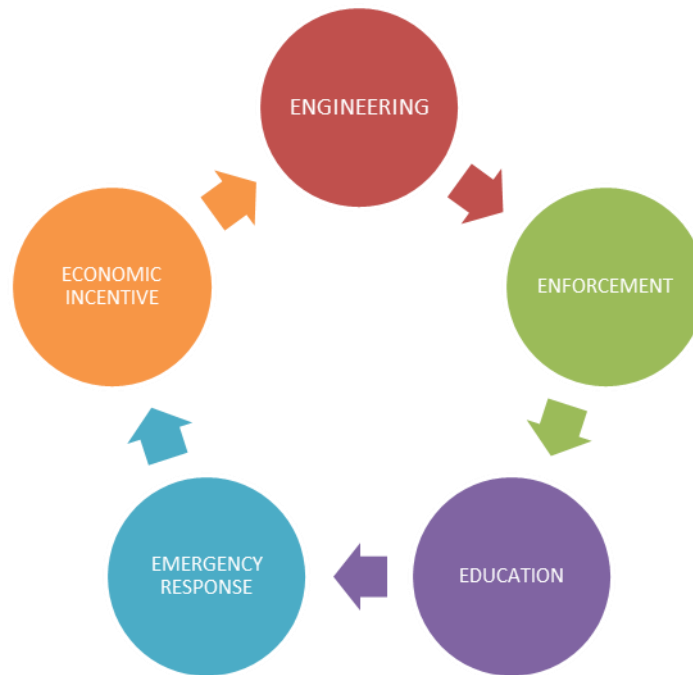


PREDICTIVE
SERVICES

SIGNIFICANT FIRE POTENTIAL



5 “E’s” Engineering, Enforcement, Education, Emergency Response and Economic Incentive



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Engineering

The City of Auburn has adopted regulations that are more stringent than California's regulations. To engineer effective defensible space into the development process, Pre-Fire Management uses proven vegetation management practices when reviewing and approving all landscaping and fuel modification zone plans. The City of Auburn Fire Department and Planning & Development section, ensures that comprehensive pre-emergency planning has been done, and that fire protection measures are engineered into the design of both residential and commercial structures, for both new construction and remodels. Chapter 7-A building requirements are incorporated, as well as Title 24, Title 19, PRC 4290 and PRC 4291, to identify and address potential wildfire hazards, and to help develop mitigation measures that will aid in making the structures more defensible. Chapter R337 of the California Residential Code (CRC) contain standards associated with the construction of buildings in wildfire prone area.

Program Development Recommendations

- Wildland Urban Interface Inspections
- Structural Ignition Program
- Fire Resistive Landscape Program

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Enforcement

For existing structures, Auburn City Fire is actively involved in enforcing codes and ordinances, and conducts regular inspections to ensure a reasonable degree of fire protection exists in facilities and occupancies, and that they remain compliant with existing fire codes.

In terms of enforcing vegetation management guidelines, Auburn City Fire also conducts annual defensible space inspections for homes and structures within the Very High and High Fire Severity Zones ^{iv} to ensure they remain in compliance. The same is true for Fuel Modification Zones and Homeowners Association properties, which are also inspected.

Fuel Reduction Program Recommendations

- Property owners, or agencies having jurisdiction, become more aware of hazardous fuels on their respective properties
- Ensure that mechanisms are in place to assist in the removal of hazardous fuels

Prescribed Fire Program Recommendations

- Re-establish a prescribed fire program as a mechanism for mitigating risks from wildland fire and for hazardous fuel reduction

Access and Egress Routes Recommendations

- No Parking Ordinance on main arteries of access and egress narrow or critical escape routes



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Education Efforts

Auburn City Fire staff participates in ongoing training programs, designed to ensure that they stay current with codes, regulations, current issues and best practices. In addition, Auburn City Fire champions the "Ready, Set, Go!" message to promote wildfire education and conduct outreach programs. Based on the premise that during a major wildfire, there may not be enough firefighting resources to protect every home, "Ready, Set, Go!" encourages residents to take personal responsibility for preparing their property and family to become part of a solution for the problem of increasing fire losses during wildfires. Special emphasis is focused on ember intrusion and the actions that homeowners can take to lower their risk, such as retrofitting homes with ignition resistive features, and creating defensible space around their property, such as with trimming and regular maintenance, and planting with ignition resistive plants. This is of particular importance for residents in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas, where wildfire survivability relies more heavily on the landowner's personal initiative to take measures to protect his or her own life and property. Additional information regarding the preparation of family emergency plans and kits, contact phone numbers, and evacuation plans are also discussed.

Additionally, Auburn City Fire Department offers free home consultations that focus on home hardening, improving defensible space, and conducts community presentations all year long to various groups, such as HOAs, schools and service clubs, on wildfire preparedness and a variety of safety topics. All information is available electronically from Auburn City Fire at auburn.ca.gov, ReadySetGo.org and related links, as well as from printed materials.

Community Awareness Recommendations

- Encouraging community members participation with stakeholder groups, and supporting fire safe council formation
- Develop/refresh marketing initiatives, education and outreach materials, to obtain intended behavioral change results
- Continued relationship building with local partners and agencies to target and distribute information
- Engage the community to subscribe to county alerting systems

Program Development Recommendations

- Red Flag Patrol Program
- Safety Messaging
- Community Event Messaging



Auburn City Red Flag Program

History has clearly demonstrated that California Wildfires are more likely to occur and more likely to spread when strong winds out of the North and North East are accompanied by low humidity levels. If the wind speeds are sufficient (25 MPH or >) and the humidity levels low enough (< 15%), this potentially dangerous combination actually prompts an official readiness response called the "Red Flag Program." Several different professional fire agencies including the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection CAL FIRE, the US Forest Service, Nevada County Fire, Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA), Los Angeles County Fire Department, as well as numerous local fire departments and utility companies all have Red Flag Programs that can be activated at any time. When alerted, these agencies go a high readiness levels which may include canceling non-essential activities, putting extra personnel on patrols, placing aircraft and other vehicles at critical positions, etc. Every effort is made to reduce response time to absolute minimums.

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The Red Flag Program as practiced by the CAL FIRE, Nevada County OCFA, LA County, normally has four progressive stages. However, Cancellation (Stage IV) may occur at any time.

Stage I. Fire Weather Watch – usually 48 to 72 hours in advance of a Red Flag Alert.

Stage II. Red Flag Warning – usually 24 hours in advance of a Red Flag Alert.

Stage III. Red Flag Alert

Stage IV. Cancellation

The Auburn City Fire Department Red Flag Program is designed to complement the official steps taken by the firefighting professionals with the goal of providing a highly visible reminder to all citizens in the region to be extra careful and vigilant on the days when the high winds blow. The Auburn City Fire Department Red Flag Program will be managed by Auburn City Fire Department and staffed by citizen volunteers. These community members will follow pre-specified patrol routes along the wildland interface (the canyons and hillsides) to watch for fires and/or suspicious activity. Simultaneously, local schools, homeowners, stores and businesses will be alerted to display Fire Safe Council provided red flags along the highways and streets of the region to alert drivers and others to the hazardous conditions at hand. In a typical season, there are three to five Red Flag Alerts.

Emergency Response

The Auburn City Fire Department responds to wildfire incidents. In addition, other City of Auburn departments such as the Police Department and Public Works Department would also play a vital response role with larger incident of any size or potential. Critical roles for other departments include but not limited to, public notification, evacuation, traffic control, staging of incoming resources, logistical support to fire resources, supporting city facilities, and aftermath mitigation measures.

The Auburn City Fire Department is an "all risk" agency meaning all type of emergencies are handled by trained personnel with the appropriate equipment. The department has wildfire suppression equipment including personal protective equipment and all personnel are trained and certified to the California Incident Command Certification System^{vi}(CICCS) as required for wildfire. The department participates in the California Master Mutual Aid System where fire personnel gain experience in wildfire suppression activities on large incidents throughout the state.

A response to wildfire with the Auburn City Fire Department resources include a type 1 engine, a type 3 (wildfire engine), a water tender, and a command officer. The City of Auburn Fire Department participates in the Western Placer County Fire Chief's Association Cooperative Response Agreement, where fire agencies have agreed to automatically support each other on incidents using the closest available resource concept. This would add 2 to 3 additional engines to the City of Auburn response to wildfire. In addition, due to the risk associated with wildfire, the City of Auburn has a contractual agreement with CAL FIRE for additional wildfire resources, which include firefighting aircraft, hand crews, bull dozers, chief officers, and type 3 engines. Through this agreement, CAL FIRE responds into the City of Auburn just as it would automatically to any State Responsibility Areas (SRA) with state owned and operated equipment. Without this agreement the City of Auburn would have to request such additional specialized equipment and if available would have to pay to the state of California the actual costs for use.

On heightened fire weather watch or warning days, also known as "Red Flag," additional resources may be staffed and prepositioned in a geographic areas to facilitate quick response. The overall intent to wildfire response is to respond as many available resources to keep the fire small in size and minimize damage to life and property. A typical response to a

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wildfire incident in and around the City of Auburn would include 8 engines, 1 air attack plane, 2 air tankers, 1 helicopter, 2 dozer, 2 crews, 1 water tender and 3 chief officer's for a total of 20 resources on the initial response.

When a wildfire has potential risk to a community or high values at risk, additional fire resources can be obtained through the California Master Mutual Aid System where an established response procedure is activated to respond the closest available resources regardless of jurisdiction. This is how the California Fire Service mobilizes fire resources quickly and efficiently when the need is at the greatest.

California local government fire agencies have the ability to request a Fire Management Assistance Grant ^{vii}(FMAG), federally funded assistance from FEMA to assist in covering costs associated with suppression and mitigation measures. What is unique about the FMAG is that on the onset of a wildfire that indicates major potential threat an FMAG application can be made and within a matter of hours approved for funding. This aids greatly in obtaining needed resources and can assist the local agency in covering costs associated with the incident. An FMAG will usually provide 75% funding with the state covering an additional portion up to 18%.

Workforce Multipliers

- Training of personnel for “Move –up” roles and leadership qualifications
- Increase Staffing levels to staff an additional engine with qualified Fire Captain, Engineer, and Firefighter for city fuel reduction work
- Ability to up staff with weather events
- Develop an initial attack, communications, and response plan between the Placer County Fire (CAL FIRE) and Auburn City Fire.
- Establish a Mutual Threat Zone Plan with CAL FIRE
- Response Agreement with Placer County Fire Department - Ensuring the closest resource response concept
- Fire Hazard Mapping
- Develop a map of all wildland areas that will illustrate the locations of all assets at risk from wildland fire with fire spread modeling
- Mapping and risk ranking of communities affected by WUI issues
- Ensure annual maintenance is completed on all roads to ensure access and egress and city owned parcels prior to the traditional wildland fire season

Program Development Recommendations

- Initiate Fire Corp Program ^{viii}
- Initiate Fire Watch Program
- Initiate CERT Program ^{ix}
- Evacuation Plan in Cooperation with APD and Placer County Emergency Manager

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What is Fire Corps?

Fire Corps supports and supplements resource-constrained fire and EMS departments through the use of citizen volunteers for non-emergency activities. Fire Corps provides tools and resources to volunteer, combination, and career departments nationwide to help them start, implement, and expand a community volunteer program.

FOCUS ON CITIZENS

Community members can assist departments in non-emergency activities so that first responders are able to focus their efforts on emergency response and training. Everyone can do something to support their local fire and emergency service department.

FOCUS ON FIRE & EMS

Fire and EMS departments can engage community members who are interested in assisting the department with non-emergency activities. Departments and fire/EMS agencies can register with Fire Corps to access free resources, tools, and information to implement and maintain a Fire Corps program in their department. All registered programs are included in an online national directory that is searchable by prospective volunteers.



YOU Can Make a Difference

Whatever your skills, there is a need for you!

As a Fire Corps volunteer, you can gain valuable experience, make friends and connections, and give back to your community. You will also directly impact the safety and well-being of your community while expanding the services your local fire/EMS department offers. Here are just a few of the ways you can help your local department:

- Promote fire safety and prevention in schools and homes
- Develop web sites or newsletters for the department
- Assist with public relations
- Help with grant writing and fundraising
- Provide administrative and clerical support
- Provide canteen services at major incidents
- Assist with mitigation measures: wildland vegetation removal near structures, identifying hazards, etc.
- Assist departments with community programs, such as roadside cleanup, food drives, and toy collections for families in need
- Assist with preparedness efforts, including planning for quick access to stocks of emergency supplies, shelter readiness, and procedure review
- Provide post-disaster support for victims of fires and other incidents

Volunteer Today!

Visit the Fire Corps web site to:

- Find a local program
- Sign up for free training through the Fire Corps Academy
- Contact your Fire Corps State Advocate
- Connect with the national Fire Corps office

Don't have a program in your area?

Visit www.firecorps.org or contact your Fire Corps State Advocate or the Fire Corps national office to learn how to start one.



GET CONNECTED

Fire Corps
www.firecorps.org
 Phone: 1-888-FC-INFO1 (324-6361)
info@firecorps.org



Citizen Corps

Fire Corps is a partner program of Citizen Corps and the effort to have everyone in America prepare, train, and volunteer. Citizen Corps is the Federal Emergency Management Agency's grassroots movement that actively involves everyone in making our communities and our nation safer, stronger, and better prepared. All over America, communities have organized Citizen Corps Councils to inspire people to take action and get involved.

Learn more about Fire Corps and other Citizen Corps programs at www.citizen corps.gov.



Fire Corps National Advisory Committee

Fire Corps is administered on a national level by the National Volunteer Fire Council in partnership with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Fire Administration, and the Fire Corps National Advisory Committee (NAC). The NAC provides valuable input and feedback for Fire Corps and helps steer the program's strategic direction. Organizations represented on the NAC include:

- Congressional Fire Services Institute www.cfsi.org
- Fire Department Safety Officers Association www.fdsao.org
- International Association of Arson Investigators www.iaaia.org
- International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters www.iabpff.org
- International Association of Fire Fighters www.iaff.org
- International Association of Fire Chiefs www.iafc.org
- International Association of Women in Fire and Emergency Services www.iawfes.org
- International Fire Service Training Association www.ifsta.org
- International Society of Fire Service Instructors www.isfsi.org
- National Association of Hispanic Firefighters www.nahfi.org
- National Association of State Fire Marshals www.nafsmhs.org
- National Fire Protection Association www.nfpa.org
- National Volunteer Fire Council www.nvfc.org
- North American Fire Training Directors www.naftd.org
- Volunteers in Police Service www.policevolunteers.org

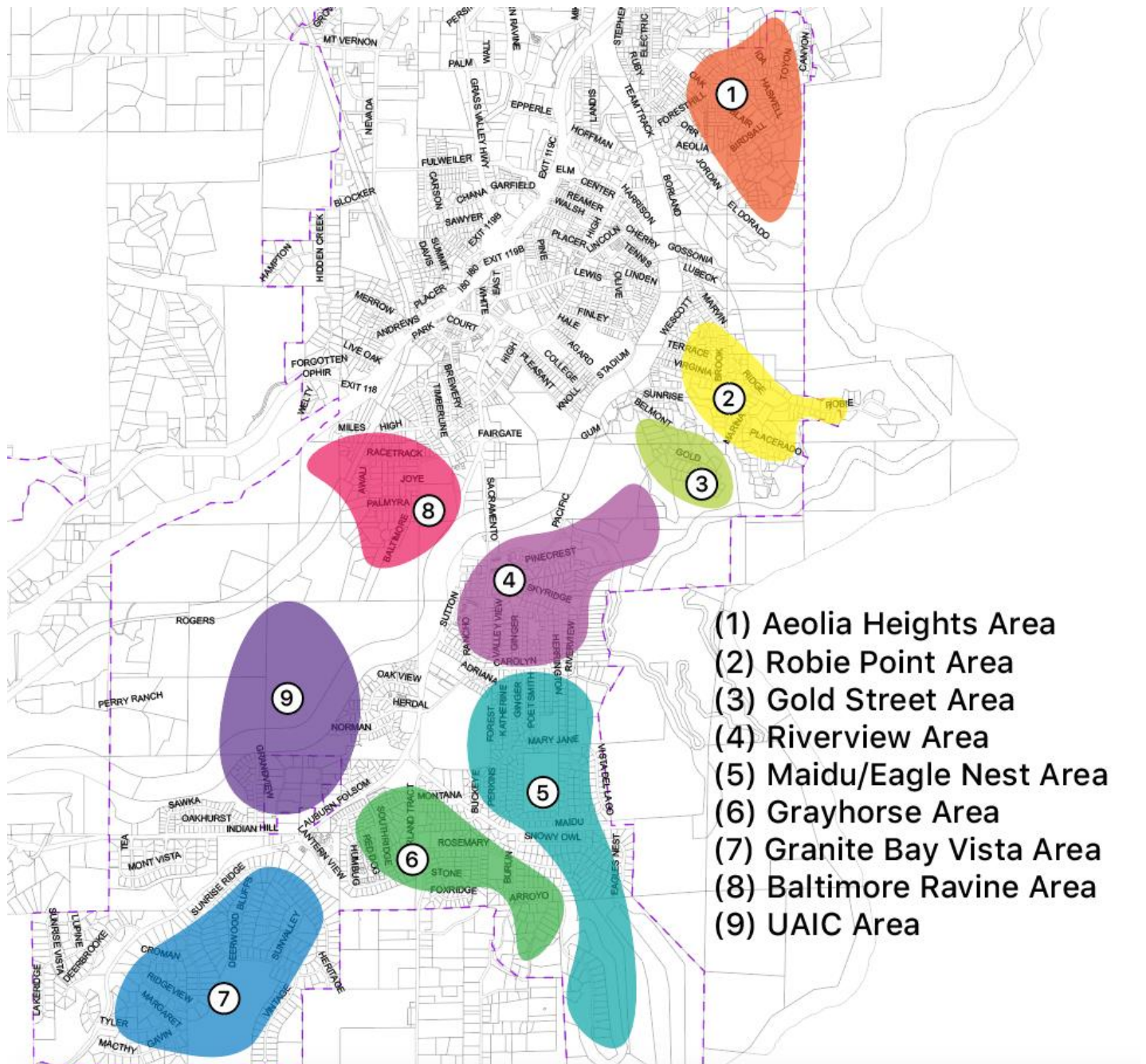
VOLUNTEER to Support your Fire & Emergency Services



www.firecorps.org



Target Neighborhood Area Overview



Economic Incentive

The economic impact of fire is not obvious until the loss has occurred. The City of Auburn has an assessed value of over \$2 billion dollars. The average median income equals over \$57,000 per household. The long-term consequences to a community that experiences a major fire are often permanently devastating. The recent Camp Fire illustrated the permanent and devastating impacts to a community.

Fire prevention activities are often the first line of budgetary cuts, and this may actually result in much higher expenditures later if a major fire occurs. Traditionally, fire is experienced locally or regionally, the public continues to assume it will not happen to them. The National Institute of Building Sciences (NIBS) released a finding that every \$1 invested in disaster mitigation saves society \$6.^x

While the short-term consequences of fire are local, the larger community will experience the long term consequences of increased insurance and tax rates. According to Cal OES, since 1979, the California Emergency Fund has expended approximately \$6.95 billion suppressing wildfires in State Responsibility Area (SRA).

Indirect damage such as job loss, job flight, evacuation costs and restoration activities can be eight to ten times higher than direct property damage. These astounding figures should serve as strong incentives for fire prevention. When a community experiences a significant fire, the loss may influence economic development for decades after the incident—such as the downgrading of its insurance rating, even its ability to borrow money. Unfortunately, many communities do not think about these consequences until they experience them directly.

A new challenge has been presented to Auburn area homeowners over the last few years. Many of our homeowners have reported the cancellation of their home insurance due to exposure to catastrophic fire in our area. The cancellation decisions appear to be made in the absence of abatement or fuel reduction work and seem to be more focused on the larger area of exposure to risk. Many Auburn residents are left with using the FAIR insurance plan as their only protection.

The California Fair Access to Insurance Requirements (“FAIR”) Plan was created in July 1968 following the 1960’s brush fires and riots. It is an insurance pool established to assure the availability of basic property insurance to people who own insurable property in the State of California and who beyond their control, have been unable to obtain insurance in the voluntary insurance market.

The California FAIR Plan Association is a syndicated fire insurance pool comprised of all insurers licensed to conduct property/casualty business in California. The Plan was established under Insurance Code statute (Section 10091 et. al) in August, 1968 as an insurance placement facility.

All property/casualty insurers are members of the Association in compliance with insurance code statute (Section 10095a). The Plan issues policies on behalf of its member companies. Each member company participates in the profits, losses and expenses of the Plan in direct proportion to its market share of business written in the state.






As a community, we will continue our Community Risk Reduction efforts specific to reducing our wildfire threat. As we implement the Performance Measures outlined in this plan, our exposure to risk will decrease. We cannot eliminate the possibility a fire will ignite. We can reduce the potential spread and impact to our community. Our overarching goal is to be a model “Fire Safe” community to the County of Placer, State of California and even the nation through our collaborative efforts and commitment to excellence.

Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)

As part of our Community Wildfire Safety Program, PG&E is implementing additional precautionary measures to help reduce the risk of wildfires. If extreme fire danger conditions threaten a portion of the electric system serving your community, it may be necessary for us to turn off electricity in the interest of public safety. This is called a Public Safety Power Shutoff. The Public Safety Power Shutoff program now includes all electric lines that pass through high fire-threat areas – both distribution and transmission.

Public Safety Power Shutoff Criteria

PG&E has a Wildfire Safety Operations Center (WSOC) that monitors fire danger conditions across their service area and evaluates whether to turn off electric power lines in the interest of safety.

While no single factor will drive a Public Safety Power Shutoff, some factors include:	
 A RED FLAG WARNING declared by the National Weather Service	 LOW HUMIDITY LEVELS generally 20% and below
 FORECASTED SUSTAINED WINDS GENERALLY ABOVE 25 MPH AND WIND GUSTS IN EXCESS OF APPROXIMATELY 45 MPH , depending on location and site-specific conditions such as temperature, terrain and local climate	
 CONDITION OF DRY FUEL on the ground and live vegetation (moisture content)	 ON-THE-GROUND, REAL-TIME OBSERVATIONS from PG&E's WSOC and field observations from PG&E crews

Potentially Impacted Areas

The most likely electric lines considered for shutting off the power for safety will be those that pass through areas that have been designated by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) as at elevated (Tier 2) or extreme (Tier 3) risk for wildfire. This includes both distribution and transmission lines.

- The specific area and number of affected customers will depend on forecasted weather conditions and which circuits PG&E needs to turn off for public safety.
- Although a customer may not live or work in a high fire-threat area, their power may also be shut off if their community relies upon a line that passes through an area experiencing extreme fire danger conditions.
- This means that any customer who receives electric service from PG&E should be prepared for a possible public safety power outage.

All community members need to take important steps to get ready before the 2019 wildfire season, such as creating an emergency kit and thorough emergency plan. To learn more about what energy companies are doing to address the threat of wildfire and Public Safety Power Shutoffs at <https://prepareforpowerdown.com/>

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Before, during and after a Public Safety Power Shutoff

While customers in high fire-threat areas <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/FireThreatMaps/> are more likely to be affected, a public safety power outage could affect any of the more than 5 million customers who receive electric service from PG&E. This is because the energy system relies on power lines working together to provide electricity across cities, counties and regions.

PG&E wants to work together to help their customers prepare and keep your home, family or business safe during extreme weather and possible outages. All City of Auburn residents need to learn more about how to prepare a safety plan. Extreme weather can last several hours or days, for planning purposes, Auburn City Fire Department suggest that PG&E customers prepare for outages that could last longer than 48 hours.

The following links are provided to learn more about Emergency Preparedness Kits and how to prepare for an outage.

[Emergency Preparedness Kit](#)

[Prepare for Outage](#)

Fiscal Resources

The City of Auburn has a General Fund and annual budget allocated to accomplish the city goals. As a city, it is our fiduciary responsibility to keep cost and expenditures commiserate with the risks, benefits and projected outcomes. The City Council has the direct oversight and accountability for fund allocation.

In an attempt to reduce pressure on the General Fund, alternate funding sources will be perused. Grants are non-repayable funds or products disbursed by one party (grant makers), often a government department, corporation, foundation or trust. In order to receive a grant, some form of "Grant Writing" often referred to as either a proposal or an application is required. Grant Writing requires a level of competency and expertise. Some agencies outsource grant writing to for-profit agencies. Staff hours to complete a grant proposal range widely based on the type of grant. There is no way to project staff cost/hours prior to initiating the process.

Most grants fund a specific project and require some level of compliance and reporting. The grant writing process involves an applicant submitting a proposal to a potential funder, either on the applicant's own initiative or in response to a Request for Proposal from the funder. Other grants can be given to individuals, such as victims of natural disasters or individuals who seek to open a small business. Sometimes grant makers require grant seekers to have some form of tax-exempt status, be a registered nonprofit organization or a local government. The Grant process is a competitive process and there is no guarantee funds will be awarded.

The following are Grant sources available to the City of Auburn.

- FEMA Grant
- Middle Fork Hydro Electric Project Grant
- CAL FIRE Grant
- Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant
- Tree Mortality Task Force Grant
- Fire Safe Council Grants

Collaborative Efforts

Auburn City Fire would like to thank the following agencies, departments, regional and local government entities, and non-governmental partners for assisting in our request for input and recommendations of this report. The city will continue to work with our stakeholders and collaborative partners and maintain strong relationships, recognizing the value of joint efforts.

- CALFIRE
- Bureau of Reclamation
- California State Parks
- Placer County Water Agency
- Pioneer Energy
- United Auburn Indian Community
- Auburn Police Department
- Greater Area Auburn Fire Safe Council

Auburn City Fire Wildland Urban Interface Strategic Plan

Objective and Performance Measures

PRIORITY 1=Immediate Action 2=Intermediate Action 3=Delayed Action	2019-2022 WUI Strategic Plan Objective and Performance Measures	Assigned	Initiated	In Progress	Completed	Notes/Action Items	Percent Complete	Completion Target
ENGINEERING EFFORTS								
Priority	Critical Task	Responsibility	Progress Report				Timeline	
1	Initiate WUI Inspections annually in late May (weather dependent)	Fire Department				Continue tracking/action taken		5/2019
2	Annual Pre-Season Letter to all residents explaining expectations for parcel owners as to fuels management	Fire Department				To the City of Auburn residents		5/2020
2	Initiate Structure Ignition Education Program	Fire Department				Web based sign-up or appointment scheduling		7/2019
3	Fire Wise Landscape coordination with United Auburn Indian Community	Fire Department/UAIC				Products still being developed		01/2020
3	Ongoing funding to maintain the Shaded Fuel break	Fire Safe Council				Grant Opportunities/Collaboration with BOR		On Going
ENFORCEMENT								
Priority	Critical Task	Responsibility	Progress Report				Timeline	
1	Fire Department proactive effort looking for weeds/fuels risks engaging parcel owners on expectations	Fire Department				Contact before a complaint is initiated		5/2019
1	Ongoing Weed Abatement enforcement	Fire Department/Code Enforcement						On Going
2	No Parking Ordinance for critical escape routes on "Red Flag" weather days	Auburn Police Department/ Auburn Fire Department Traffic Commission				Identify critical area and collaborate with Traffic Commission		10/2020
2	Initiate "Pilot" city-wide chipper program	Fire Department/Public Works				Evaluate success and sustainability for long term benefits		6/2021
3	Refresh our collaborative effort with Recology and capture green waste tons per acre for city projects	Fire Department/Recology						5/2020
3	Re-establish Prescribed fire program for maintaining fuels reduction of parcels within the city limits	Fire Department/ CAL FIRE partners						4/2020

Auburn City Fire Wildland Urban Interface Strategic Plan

3	Initiate a Grazing Program to support fuel reduction efforts of fuels crew work	Fire Department/Public Works				Annual maintenance schedule		01/2020
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EDUCATION EFFORTS

Priority	Critical Task	Responsibility	Progress Report			Timeline		
2	Fire Behavior Map and interactive mapping for inspection status and City owned parcel fuel reduction status	Nexgen				More interactive		On Going
2	Annual Safety Message Campaign	Fire Department				Ensure all platforms have deliverables		On Going
2	Initiate Fire Corp Volunteer Program	Fire Department						11/2019
2	Initiate CERT Volunteer Program	Fire Department				Post adoption of Fire Corp Potential partner with PCWA staff		9/2020
2	Initiate Fire Watch Volunteer Program	Fire Department				Post adoption of Fire Corp		5/2020
3	Fire Ignition Information Videos	Fire Safe Council				Post on Fire Department Web Site		TBA
3	Implement an education campaign focused on the benefits of Fire Wise Communities	Fire Safe Council				Coordinate with GAAFSC		On Going

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Priority	Critical Task	Responsibility	Progress Report			Timeline		
1	Initiate Fuels Crew program with additional personnel on second engine company	Fire Department				Projected launch date post leadership training for existing staff		11/2019
1	Increase staffing with local weather events as needed	Fire Department				Coordinate with CALFIRE staffing patterns		On Going
1	Reinstate Battalion Chief	Fire Department				Oversight of 6 new programs		6/2019
1	Updated County Evacuation Plan	Fire Department/Placer County				Working with OES/County		On Going

ECONOMIC INCENTIVES

Priority	Critical Task	Responsibility	Progress Report			Timeline		
3	Advertise discounts offered by insurance carriers for "Fire Wise" communities	Fire Department				Fold into messaging plan and partner with local insurance providers		01/2020

*****This is a living document that will be updated as necessary *****

Additional Resources

- ⁱ <http://www.fire.ca.gov/downloads/45-Day%20Report-FINAL.pdf>
- ⁱⁱ http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/fireplan/fireplanning_communities_at_risk
- ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.placer.courts.ca.gov/grandjury/2010-2011/49-Fire.pdf>
- ^{iv} http://www.fire.ca.gov/fire_prevention/fire_prevention_wildland_zones_maps_citylist
- ^v <http://www.readyforwildfire.org/Ready-Set-Go-Campaign/>
- ^{vi} <http://firescope.caloes.ca.gov/specialist-groups/ciccs/ciccs.htm>
- ^{vii} <https://www.fema.gov/fire-management-assistance-grant-program>
- ^{viii} <https://firecorps.org/departments/grow-a-program/>
- ^{ix} <https://www.ready.gov/community-emergency-response-team>
- ^x [https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2018/01/11/every-\\$1-invested-in-disaster-mitigation-saves-\\$6](https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/research-and-analysis/articles/2018/01/11/every-$1-invested-in-disaster-mitigation-saves-$6)